

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 2 of 1877.]

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 13th January 1877.

THE *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 20th December last, makes the following observations in an article headed "Prisoners detained in custody":—The object of all legislation should be to benefit those for whom it is intended. In India there is no lack of promptness to enact laws and regulations; yet but little attention is indeed paid towards securing this object, or relieving the miseries of the helpless, which, though loudly calling for redress, fail to excite the pity of the authorities, who are deaf to these calls on their time and energy, and only care to attend to their daily routine of work. They cannot complain of any want of leisure; but that leisure is spent in pleasures and festivities, and not on what duty requires of them. It is for this that we are exceedingly thankful to Mr. Justice White, for his recent generous order to provide with food prisoners awaiting their trial at the Sessions of the High Court. It would be well if the order were also enforced in the mofussil courts, through a circular, for the benefit of persons in custody on criminal charges, who, as awaiting their trial, do not by any means deserve the rigorous treatment to which they are subjected, and which, though not more, is scarcely less cruel than that of convicts. They are not, for instance, as the convicts are, allowed clothing by Government, nor timely meals. The food given is not generally that to which they are accustomed. Unlike the convicts brought up before the court, they are hand-cuffed; nor are they allowed to smoke. Their shoes are taken from them; and long detention in custody, as in the Sessions cases, subjects them to considerable loss. In almost half the number of cases sent up by the police, the accused are acquitted by the Sessions court; nor is this to be wondered at, considering the intriguing character of the prosecution, and the worth of the Magistrate, as also the fact that neither the police, nor a Magistrate, is ever punished or reproved for inflicting trouble on an innocent person. So that a Magistrate, who may desire to throw a man into jail, though there be no illegal conduct to adduce against him, may easily attain his purpose by committing him to the Sessions. The police also is similarly able to oppress the innocent. The accused, while in confinement, are denied all facilities for making their defence, by causing needful enquiries to be made or engaging counsel on their behalf, and are thus placed in great difficulty. Nor is it a lesser evil that, in all cases sent up by the police, the accused are retained in their custody until their trial is over. We would earnestly urge on Government the consideration, that persons, so detained and awaiting their trial, ought not to be treated as convicted prisoners are; and our point is the more strengthened, seeing that most of these are subsequently acquitted. It, therefore, behoves the authorities to provide for the removal of the grievances suffered by prisoners detained in custody.

BISHWA SUHRID,
December 20th, 1876.
Circulation about 450.

DACCA PRAKASH,
December 31st, 1876.
Circulation about 400.

2. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 31st December, congratulates Baboo Deno Nath Sen, the able Head-Master of the Dacca Normal School, on his successful invention of a weaving-machine, which turns out a large amount of work in a short time. The editor asks Government to secure to Dacca the valuable services of this gentleman by offering him an increased salary, as he is likely to leave the Government service in a short time.

DACCA PRAKASH.

3. The same paper refutes the imputation of disloyalty which is so often cast upon the Native press. The exposure of the illegal and arbitrary acts of public officials and low Europeans is made rather in the interests of the Government, which is thus kept informed thereof, and not from any feeling of disaffection; and the value of this service will be best appreciated by the consideration, that in the opinion of the public, Government is identified with these men, and their acts are regarded as under its guidance.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAK.
January 1st, 1877.

4. The *Bhárat Sangskárák*, of the 1st January, makes the following observations, in a highly eulogistic editorial on Lord Lytton:—'Though His Lordship has been at the head of the Indian Administration but for a short time, he has already, by a number of liberal acts, made himself popular with the natives. The noble views which he announced in his inaugural address, on assuming the reins of Government, have been carried out in practice, and have thus in the minds of the public begotten a confidence and affection towards the administration. The Fuller Minute alone has entitled him to their respect as a sincere friend of this country; and since its publication we have heard of but few cases of Europeans trampling under foot the life of helpless natives.'

The consideration His Lordship has shown to the editors of native newspapers, by inviting them to the Delhi Assemblage has been indeed uncommon. In the absence of any representative institutions, the native papers are the only means of expressing and representing public opinion in this country; and narrow-minded rulers have all along slighted it. The more they increased in number, and the greater the ability with which they were conducted, the attitude of Government became the more hostile towards them; until their frank expression of opinion has been regarded as seditious and libellous, their courage and independence an evil to the country, and their criticism of the acts of the local officials repeatedly censured as impertinence. The agitation made, and the means adopted, during the administrations of Lord Mayo and his successor, for the purpose of subduing and curbing the spirit of the native press, caused some apprehension that its ruin was at hand. The accession of Lord Lytton, therefore, has been a most fortunate event, and to him they owe the honor of being invited to Delhi, and regarded as guests of the Viceroy, on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage.

The short period of his administration has been fraught with natural calamities, and some political mishaps to the country, with famines and storm-waves, and complications in the frontier territories; and the holding of a costly Durbar in face of these disasters was regarded by the public as inopportune and unadvisable. But he had already advanced too far to recede. Still he has reduced the expenditure connected with the affair, and put forth energetic efforts to cope with the visitations that have befallen the country. He personally visited the frontier and settled the disputes to some extent; and has strengthened the tie of friendship with neighbouring States. He visited Bombay, and the scene of distress, and has made arrangements for affording relief. As for the storm-wave in Eastern Bengal, and the misery occasioned by it being but partially relieved, Sir Richard Temple, and not His Lordship, must be held responsible. It is also said that he has himself

subscribed liberally in aid of the relief operations, and has met from his own funds much of the expense connected with the Durbar. We are sorry that India has the prospect of retaining so gracious a ruler only for a short time; for his retirement in the ensuing year is already spoken of as probable.

5. The same paper regards the acquittal of Mr. Wilson, in the libel case recently brought against him by Sir Stuart Hogg, as an event which the public should rejoice at. It has been an indirect condemnation of the proceedings of Sir Stuart Hogg in connection with the late election; and Mr. Wilson is entitled to the gratitude of the public for his manly defence and valuable service.

BHARAT
SANGSKARAN,
January 1st, 1877.

6. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 4th January, resuming the subject of Rent Law as proposed to be amended by Sir Richard Temple, remarks as follows: The portion allowed to the zemindar in some cases, a fourth part of the entire produce, seems to be very high. According to Menu, a sixth part should be allotted to the land-holder. It is curious to notice in the Bill the absence of any provision for abatement of rent, though enhancement of it has been provided for. We do not know why only section 18 of Act VIII, relating to enhancement, has been amended, while the very next section which provides for abatement of rent is left untouched. It is to be feared that if section 19 is left as it is, the immemorial right which a tenant has of enjoying an abatement of rent, when circumstances justify it, will be lost. Section 5 of the proposed law entrusts the Collector with the task of determining the rent-rate or the price of produce where the court is not capable of coming to a determination. How this task is to be actually performed by the Collector, whether he will make local enquiries or depute any of his subordinates for the purpose, we are not told. In either case, the advantages to be derived from the proposed change are not clear. If the enquiries are to be made by the Collector himself, the suitors will find their difficulties increased by having to dance attendance in both his and the civil court. But if the information on this subject is to be collected, in the way in which that on all other matters pertaining to a district is obtained, that is, without any direct enquiries whatever, there will be no end of injustice. We ourselves have, indeed, no faith in the accuracy of any information collected by these officers; and the public also would distrust them altogether, did they but know how it is obtained. All the local information is supplied to Government by the village chowkeedars; and the value of a report which the Collector may make on the strength of such data may be easily conjectured.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 4th, 1877.
Circulation about 2,217.

7. The *Samaj Darpan*, of the 5th January, thus comments on the address delivered at the Calcutta Durbar:—Our readers will notice that there is nothing in it which can touch our hearts. It abounds in the words "Loyalty," "Queen," and "subjects." There is nothing unreservedly said in the interests of Bengal. What we are we shall continue to be, and there will be no change in our condition. Nor has the Queen been a gainer by this title of Empress. If it could, by any mysterious influence, increase her affection towards us, this would have been set forth in the address. Indeed, we have never seen the Queen manifest her pleasure by a more hollow and meaningless device; and in the costly Proclamation of the Imperial Title, there is not any assurance more gratifying than what was found in the inexpensive one of 1858.

SAMAJ DARPAN
January 5th, 1877.
Circulation about 460.

8. The same paper remarks that the public have been greatly disappointed in their expectations regarding the Imperial Assemblage at

SAMAJ DARPAN.

Delhi. It has not conferred on them, beyond a number of empty titles, any substantial privileges. There has been enough of profession, but nothing in practice.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
January 5th, 1877.

9. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 5th January, observes, in reference to Act VII (B.C.) of 1876, that the more the subject of land registration is discussed, the deeper becomes our despair. Thus, for instance, as to the mouzahwar registers, for the purpose of which it is required that the extent of land, which a zemindar possesses in each mouzah, should be entered and verified, the difficulty will be realized by considering, that great changes have taken place in the extent and boundaries of mouzahs since the time of the Permanent Settlement, and the fact that most of them have not been surveyed for a long time past. It is well known that in every new settlement of a khas mehal, it is carefully surveyed by competent persons, and the work checked by superior officers. But zemindars are required to rely on surveys made by ameens. Considerable uneasiness, therefore, prevails among the landlords; and will continue to prevail, if the provision, requiring them to state the extent of their landed possessions for the purposes of the mouzahwar registers, be not repealed. The results of the different surveys made even by Government at different times are found to differ, and are not accepted as correct in any question of settlement. But zemindars have not the means of procuring copies of the records of their possessions which are kept in the offices of Government, nor have they been allowed the time for procuring them; and even if the records were available, they would not be sufficient satisfactorily to meet the requirements of the law, as the extent and boundaries of each separate mouzah are not recorded therein.

BURDWAN
PRACHARIKA,
January 5th, 1877.
Circulation about 185.

10. The *Burdwan Pracháriká*, of the 5th January, points out with regret that at the recent Durbar at Burdwan, no certificate of honor was presented to Syud Sadarudin Ahmed, the respectable and public spirited zemindar of Bohar, who is well known for his works of charity and public utility. It is hoped that this omission will be rectified.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
January 5th, 1877.

11. The *Moorshedabad Pratinidhi*, of the 5th January, dwells on the advisability of curtailing the exceedingly large powers exercised by the Magistrates. He does not consider it safe to invest any man, however wise, with so great authority, where there is no appeal allowed in many criminal cases, and that authority is constantly abused. It is time the subject should receive the attention of Government.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
January 6th, 1877.
Circulation about 200.

12. The *Grámbartá Prákáshiká*, of the 6th January, observes, in reference to Sir Richard Temple's proposed rent law, that it does not seem that its provisions can be successfully carried out in all districts in Bengal. That, which might be reasonable in the case of Bhagulpore, would be very different in Jessore or Dacca. Moreover, the powers, which it confers on the zemindars for enhancing and collecting the rents of their tenants, are very likely to bring both into trouble and loss; and litigation and disputes will rather increase than diminish in number. A law which will put a stop to all rent disputes is indeed desirable; but whether the proposed Bill will ever succeed in doing so is open to question.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
January 6th, 1877.

13. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 6th January, in an article on the Institution of Court of Wards, dwells on the many benefits which it has conferred on the class of landlords in the country. It is, however, remarked that by heirs to large estates alone this consideration at the hands of Government is received, while minors left by petty landlords are unnoticed. In justice, however, these are entitled to no less consideration than the former; and

our, rulers should take the matter in hand, by directing Collectors to appoint competent managers to such estates and call for periodical reports of their management. A ward should be educated in the district in which his native village is situated, and placed under the care of his natural guardian.

14. The same paper directs the attention of the authorities to the inconvenience and loss to which witnesses in civil courts are subjected from being required to dance attendance from day to day. The evil might be easily removed by the officers presiding over these courts summoning them only on the day when their evidence can be taken.

HINDU HITOPNISHI,
January 6th, 1877.

15. The *Sádháraní*, of the 7th January, writes strongly of an incident which happened in the Durbar at Delhi. Mirja Elahi Bux, now a poor, emaciated old man, is descended from the Imperial Mogul family. Heaven only knows why he was brought to the Durbar. Certain it is, they were heartless who brought him thither. The old man essayed to speak, but the Secretaries, thinking this would be inappropriate, drew him aside by force. We do not know with what object this costly Durbar was planned, whether it was to make an impression on the native mind by outward pomp or for their good. If for the latter, why was not the old man allowed to speak out his grievances?

SADHARANI,
January 7th, 1877.
Circulation about 518.

16. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 8th January, suggests, in connection with the operation of Act VII (B.C) of 1876, that the objects and requirements of this Act, and the manner in which they should be met ought to be clearly explained. This is a matter on which great uneasiness prevails at present. Occasional notifications, published in the Gazette, or stuck up in some conspicuous place, are insufficient for the purpose. Forms, similar to the road cess schedules, should be made easily available. It is really hard to require the inhabitants of distant villages to resort to the head-quarters of a district for these forms.

SOMA PRAKASH,
January 8th, 1877.
Circulation about 700.

17. According to the same paper, the Imperial Assemblage has only been a costly failure. It has sorely disappointed the natives, who had hoped that important privileges would be conferred on them. They now perceive that Lord Lytton has treated them as children; and that it is the policy of Government to keep them in a state of tutelage for an indefinite period of time. The transfer of the Government from the hands of the East India Company to those of the Queen had raised similar expectations only to be equally blasted. Nay, more, the officers of the Company acted under a sense of responsibility in which the officers of the Crown are sadly wanting. Our readers must be very sanguine indeed, if, from the assumption of the Imperial Title, they hope to see an improved state of things.

SOMA PRAKASH.

18. The Editor of the *Akhbár-ul-akhiár*, in noticing the Delhi Assemblage, remarks that the great assembly, held in ancient Delhi during the Hindu rule, could not be said to equal that just held, in pomp and dignity. During the time of the Mogul Dynasty, there were hundreds of *Darbárs* at which most of the chiefs and nobles attended; but the attendance was not voluntary but compulsory, or the result of fear. But the assembly just held, at which Her Majesty has been proclaimed Empress of Hindustan, can truly be said to be an assemblage of all the princes, chiefs, and nobles of the Empire drawn together by the kindness, justice, and attractive influence of the Sovereign.

AKHBAR-UL-AKHIAR,
January 1st, 1877.

19. The Editor of the *Behár Bandhu* remarks, that Hindustan may now be said to have been swallowed up; we at first thought that the inhabitants of Patna alone had become so debased, as to look up to the

BEHAR BANDHU,
January 3rd, 1877.

Commissioner and Magistrate as demi-gods ; but we have only now discovered that almost the whole of Hindustan is in this abject state. The younger son of Ranbír Singh, Máhárájá of Kashmír, became the *page* (*khawás*) of Lord Lytton at the Darbár.

QASID, OR "THE
MESSENGER,"
January 8th 1877.

20. The *Qásid* notices the fact that the Madras Government is now spending two lacs of rupees a day for the relief of the famine-stricken. The Editor prays that God may make the Government increasingly prosperous.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 13th January 1877.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending
the 13th January 1877.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Weekly ...	20th December 1876.
2	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	31st ditto.
3	"Bhárat Sangakarak" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	1st and 8th January 1877.
4	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rajshahye ...	Ditto ...	3rd January 1877.
5	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
6	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	4th ditto.
7	"Samáj Darpan" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
9	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
10	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
11	"Burdwan Pracháriká" ...	Burdwan ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
12	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
14	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
15	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
16	"Sambád Bháskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
17	"Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
18	"Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	6th to 9th January 1877.
19	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	9th to 11th ditto.
20	"Sambád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	22nd Dec. 1876 & 5th January 1877.
21	"Akhbár-ul Akhiár" (in Urdu.)	Mozuffurpore ...	Bi-monthly ...	1st January 1877.
22	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore, Patna ...	Weekly ...	3rd ditto.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
24	"Qásid" (in Urdu) ...	Patna ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.